

## AT CUSHING'S ISLAND.

SKETCHES AT A PLEASANT RESORT DOWN IN MAINE.

Pretty Pictures and Handsome Girls—The Work of a Chicago Sketching Club—Longfellow's Birthplace—Sandwich Parties.

[Cushing's Island, Me., letter to Chicago Inter Ocean.]

THE urgent request of the guests of the Ottawa House, as well as at the suggestion of art lovers of Portland who are interested in the work of Chicago's sketching party, an exhibition is now in progress here at which are seen some of the many sketches made on the island during the past few weeks. It is something unusual to have an art exhibition during the summer months, and hardly an ordinary attraction at a

summer resort, but Cushing's Island has a brainy element, and its visitors are not judged by ordinary standards. The artists and pupils who came here from the West have had but since the first of July in which to prepare the many sketches now on exhibition. The pictures have been placed in the hotel reading-room. The sketches include water-colors, oil paintings, and studies



EDITH SEXTON

in charcoal and pencil. Some of them have been so meritorious as to meet with immediate purchasers. Many of the sketches shown are the work of beginners, who have begun well. Many of them never did any outdoor sketching before. It is remarkable that there is an absence of figures and flowers—unless exception be made to the study of a head for which pretty little Edith Sexton posed. The two little Sexton girls are excellent models, and would prove valuable aids to any artist who cared to paint a picture representing the two little English princesses in the tower.



PORTLAND LIGHT

The artists have painted almost everything on, about, or near the island, except the town of Portland. Prohibition prevented painting. One object that has been introduced into almost every sketch is the light-house, marking the main channel, or Portland light, as it is called. One of the few points about the island that have not been sketched by every artist in the vicinity is old Fort Gorges, in Portland harbor. It is



PORT GORGES

rather an impressive looking fort, although it is no longer in use, having served its purpose.

Excursions to Boston are common events. These parties usually consist of ladies, as the gentlemen are too scarce to be spared. The ladies, as a rule, are unfortunate, for they usually encounter a storm, and come back looking unusually pale. They become so seasick on the water that it is not to be wondered at that several of them wanted the earth while on the ocean. One young lady narrated her experi-



LONGFELLOW'S BIRTHPLACE

ences on the boat. When she awoke she found that it was daylight and that she had a desire for fresh air. No one was in sight except a pretty girl, a stranger, who remarked that she was getting up early so as to get some fresh air. The first lady asked what time of day it was, and was informed that it was just four o'clock in the morning. After a while the Chicago lady went on deck and saw the pretty girl get-

ting "fresh air." The "fresh air" consisted of a sheepish-looking young man, who had his arm about the pretty girl's waist, who in turn rested her pretty head upon the young man's shoulder. The Chicago girl looked the



THE LONGFELLOW STATUE

other way, and for the first time realized why so many "fresh-air funds" were started in the East.

A point of special interest to visitors in Portland is the house where the poet Longfellow was born. It is in the lower part of the town and attracts continual attention.

Another point of interest in Portland, and which is visited by every stranger, is Longfellow square, one of the most beautiful spots in the Forest City of Maine. In the center of the square is the splendid heroic statue of Longfellow, born and reared in Portland, the pride of its people.

One of the Chicagoans returned from Portland with a unique story. A small boy said to his mother:

"Mother, give me money to go to the circus."

"No, I can't let you go there."

"Then let me have a tooth pulled; I want to do something."

There are many beautiful things to be seen about Cushing's Island, but among the living pictures few call out as much admiration as is bestowed upon "the pretty girl," as she is called by the many who have eyes for the beautiful. The "pretty girl" is Miss Lilla Wittredge, of Lynn, Mass., who came here with her mother, Miss Wittredge has been likened unto a wild rose, she is so fair to look upon. She is of the brunette type, with dark, lustrous eyes, a plentiful supply of black hair, a complexion that is rich and rare, defying description. Miss Wittredge is about 17 years of age, but is nevertheless a belle. She has an immense "repertoire of dresses," in the selection of which she has shown not only startling originality but exquisite taste. The professional artists have thus far been unsuccessful in getting Miss Wittredge to pose for them, but here is an attempt at a portrait taken



MISS LILLA WITTREDGE

while "the pretty girl" was writing a letter, a pastime that seems to give her great pleasure.

A High Life Chinese Wedding in Chicago.

It was a solemn but strange wedding. The parties to the contract were Moy Sing, a disciple of Confucius, and Miss Ida Wagner, a comely German girl from Streator.

The ceremony was performed in a room richly hung in Oriental trappings, near Hip Lung's Hotel. There were present a score or more Chinese, a few of whom had wives of Anglo-Saxon blood. All were in holiday attire, and when the traditional knot was tied there was a general rejoicing. The rites were pronounced after the manner set forth in the statute books of the State of Illinois. The performance was soon over, and then the friends gathered about to congratulate the newly wedded pair, just as Americans do. Then a queer little orchestra, consisting of four Celestials, performed on several odd-looking stringed instruments and a tom-tom or gong, producing a weird kind of music. There was nothing elaborate in the dress either of the bride or groom. Moy Sing wore a royal purple silk robe, with the usual flowing sleeves and wide skirt, while his bride appeared in a suit of India silk.

At the conclusion the groom led his bride to Hip Lung's hotel, at 223 South Clark street, where he has rented a suite of rooms. It is an eminently respectable house, and is known to the Chinese from San Francisco to New York as the resort of the silk stocking element of Mongolian society in Chicago. In this hotel two other Chinamen with American wives occupy apartments, and the advent of a third white woman was duly celebrated.

The groom, Moy Sing, is a native of Canton, and is 23 years of age. He is a cigarmaker in the employ of Sam Moy. It is said that Mr. Sing met Miss Wagner in Streator some years ago while he was conducting a laundry there.—Chicago Inter Ocean

AFTER a man has been married a few years he never dodges when his wife throws anything at him.—Lawrence American.

THERE is a statue of Bismarck at Cologne, and it makes the eyes of Cologne water to look at it, he is so homely.

## A DISTINGUISHED MASON.

A Sketch of General Albert Pike, the Only Masonic Potentate in America.

The most picturesque character in Washington is General Albert Pike, late of Arkansas, but for several years a citizen of Washington. In the biographical dictionaries he is described as "poet, lawyer, scholar, warrior and distinguished Mason," but for some years past his fame has been based principally upon his unique Masonic rank.

General Pike was born at Newburyport, Mass., in 1809. He entered Harvard in 1826, and after a partial course became principal of a Newburyport grammar school. In 1831 he set out for the then almost unexplored West. Joining a caravan of forty wagons under Captain Charles Bent at St. Louis, he crossed the plains to Santa Fe. Remaining there until 1832, with a party of forty-five he went down the Pecos



GENERAL ALBERT PIKE

River and into the Staked Plains, then to the head waters of the Brazos, part of the time without food or water. Finally Pike, with four others, left the company and reached Fort Smith, Ark., in December, 1832, after passing through almost incredible perils and hardships. He first turned his attention to trading, then became editor of the *Arkansas Advocate*. After three years' occupancy of the editorial tripod, he sold out his paper and entered upon the practice of law at Little Rock, in which he was very successful. For many years he was recognized as the foremost lawyer and brightest intellectual light in Arkansas. His "Hymns to the Gods," contributed to *Blackwood's Magazine* in 1839, at once gave him an honored name among American poets. He served as Captain of a company in an Arkansas regiment in the Mexican war, and commanded a brigade of Arkansas troops in the Confederate army. In 1867 he removed to Memphis and became editor of the *Appeal*, removing to Washington the following year. He retired from the practice of law in 1880, and has since devoted his attention to literature and Freemasonry.

As Venerable Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of Inspectors General, Thirty-third Degree, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, whose See is at Charleston, in the State of South Carolina, being "the Mother Supreme Council," General Pike is the ranking Masonic dignitary of the world. General Pike is the only Masonic potentate in America elected and "crowned" for life. He has been at the head of the Scottish Rite since 1859. He has also been at the head of the Royal Order of Scotland in the United States since that exclusive Masonic order was planted in this country by his lordship the Earl of Rosslyn, about twelve or thirteen years ago.

The Ancestral Council, as Gen. Pike sometimes styles it, was founded at Charleston in 1801. The "high grades" under the name of Rite of Perfection, limited to 25 degrees, had flourished in France since the middle of the last century, but until 1801 there had never been any organized governing body. The Charleston Council at the start added eight degrees, making thirty-three in all, and exercised Scottish Rite jurisdiction over the entire globe, until it granted patents for the establishment of other Supreme Councils of the thirty-third degree, with co-ordinate administrative rank, several years later. It issued the patent for the Northern jurisdiction in 1813. There are now between twenty-five and thirty Supreme Councils scattered throughout the world, each having its charter or patent either directly or indirectly from the Charleston Mother Council. Some years ago representatives of these councils met in convention at Lausanne, in Switzerland, and formed a league or confederation, and this inter-conciliar affair recognized General Pike as the Senior Grand Commander and President, although he was not present in person. Thus a sort of primacy or Masonic patriarchy has come about, and General Pike's successor as Grand Commander will be recognized and respected as President of the Confederation.

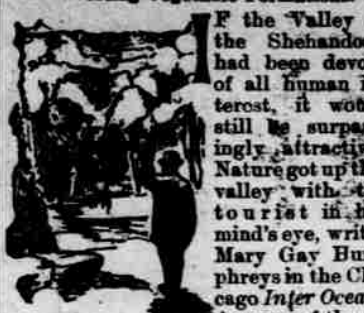
Lending an Umbrella. "One night after I had turned in," said a druggist, "I received a call through the tube and went down to the store to see what was wanted. There was a heavy shower in progress, and on opening the door I saw a young gentleman and lady who had sought the protection of my awning, having been caught without an umbrella. The gentleman said he had called me down to ask as a great favor if I would lend him an umbrella; that it was late, and cars were running at long intervals, and that unless I would accommodate him he didn't see how he could get his lady home without her getting very wet. At first I thought it was rather cheeky for a total stranger to wake me up out of a sound sleep in the middle of the night, and then add insult to injury by asking me to lend him my umbrella. The young lady looked so beseechingly at me, however, that I couldn't decline, and so I lent them the only umbrella I had, which was a valuable silk one. The next day the young man came into the store with the umbrella, was very profuse in his thanks, and also purchased a very nice little bill of goods."

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Crash!!!—Chicago Ledger.

## THE CAVES OF OLD VIRGINIA.

A Region Full of Romance—Curious and Interesting Vegetable Formations.



F the Valley of the Shenandoah has been devoid of all human interest, it would still be surpassingly attractive. Nature got up this valley with the tourist in her mind's eye, writes Mary Gay Humphreys in the *Chicago Inter Ocean*.

Any one of the attractions would be an outfit for a whole State. Here the caves of Luray, the grottoes of the Shenandoah, and the Natural Bridge are lavished within a distance of 100 miles. This is a record unmatched in any other part of the world so far as known.

The cave is reached by a drive of a mile through the quaint little town hanging on by its very ears to a ravine. An ungainly house covers the entrance.

Luray is as unlike the Mammoth Cave as the Casino is different from the Tombs. The Mammoth Cave is vaster, more awe-inspiring, and in it one realizes such constant possibilities of danger and attains so much by hard work that one feels somewhat like an original explorer. Luray is a clean, well-swept domain, into which you could take a baby, and its formations are much more attractive as decorations, although less beautiful in detail. Here are none of those exquisite, flower-like formations that deck the grimy heights of the Mammoth Cave, but the wide sweep of line, the graceful curves and convolutions repeated in vast masses make a decoration of wonderful effectiveness. The peculiarity of the formation is that of draperies hanging in long, graceful folds. Sometimes these are in laminated sheets so thin as to be almost transparent, barred with color and at the outer edges turned and folded like a gigantic leaf. Here are chamber on chamber hung with these magnificent draperies. One of the most perfect of these arrangements is called the "Saracen's Tent," another is the "Wet Blanket," behind which a light shows its beautiful translucence and delicate bars of color. "Helen's Shawl" is another exquisite bit in texture and color. In other places the draperies appear to be gathered back at the bottom, the folds strangely not falling plumb.

In other places the folds are so turned that they resemble organ pipes, and we have the cathedral. The organ gives forth sounds and the guide plays "Days of Absence" with the usual skill, and then runs through rich, vibrating chords. The quality of the sound is like that of a deep-toned organ. Near by on another short series of folds the guide strikes chimes, bell-like in quality and full of melody.

Elsewhere the formations are vegetable rather than floral. There is a bed of cauliflower and new potatoes in glistening coats. There is also a fish market, with rows of fish hung up for sale and long-necked geese plucked for market.

The imagination is not forced in these resemblances, which would suggest themselves to the most unimaginative. In the cathedral there is a dainty statuette which looks like an antique of the Madonna and Child, and a little group that is easily resolved into Christ blessing little children. The trouble at such places is that these resemblances are too greatly insisted on, while the charm lies in those hints which will not bear pressing. Here are the usual halls: The Bridal Chamber, the Giant's Hall, Pluto's Chamber, with a shadowy Proserpine in the gloom, Diana's Bath, the Frozen Cascades, whither than the other formations, and the guide says later formations.



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